

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 /140 W

----- 113740

R 231510Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1191

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11449

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: CONFRONTATION WITH AFAR: AFCC RETREAT?

REFS: (A) ADDIS 11366; (B) MEMCONS DATED AUGUST 28 AND SEPT 3, 1974

1. KADHAFO ALI MIRA, NEPHEW OF SULTAN ALI MIRA HANFERE OF THE AFAR, TOLD EMBOFF SEPT. 23 THAT TWO WEEKS AGO AFCC HAD REQUESTED SULTAN TO APPEAR BEFORE IT AND HAD BLOCKED AFAR BANK ACCOUNTS THROUGHOUT EMPIRE. SULTAN REFUSED AND WENT INTO HIDING (CF REF A).

2. ACCORDING TO KADHAFO, "ALL AFARS IN ETHIOPIA AND FROM FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS, TOO," RETURNED TO AFAR HOMELAND TO DEFEND SULTAN.

3. KADHAFO AND SEVERAL TRIBAL ELDERS THEN MET WITH AFCC REPS TO TRANSMIT SULTAN'S REFUSAL AND INFORM AFCC THAT IF ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO TAKE SULTAN BY FORCE, AFARS WOULD SHOOT ON SIGHT "ANYONE WEARING TROUSERS," I.E., ANY HIGHLANDER. KADHAFO SAID HE TOLD AFCC REPS THAT, UNLIKE RASES ASRATEKASSA AND MENGESHA SEYOUM, SULTAN HAD BEEN ELECTED BY AFAR PEOPLE, NOT APPOINTED BY EMPEROR. ONLY

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AFAR PEOPLE, THEREFORE, COULD REMOVE SULTAN.

4. AFCC REPS, AFTER CONSULTING WITH AFCC LEADERS, TOLD KADHAFO THAT "MIDDLE LEVEL" ADMINISTRATIVE MISTAKE HAD BEEN MADE AND IT WAS UNNECESSARY FOR SULTAN TO COME TO ADDIS AT THIS TIME.

5. KADHAFO REPORTS THAT AFAR ASSETS NO LONGER BLOCKED AND SULTAN HAS RETURNED TO AFAR CAPITAL, AISSAITA. HE SHOWED EMBOFF LETTER WITH AFCC SEAL ON ENVELOPE WHICH HE IS CARRYING TO AISSAITA TOMORROW. LETTER IS PURPORTEDLY AFCC ASSURANCE TO SULTAN HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM EPMG.

6. DURING DISCUSSION, KADHAFO STATED THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES, RAS MENGESHA HAS FLED ETHIOPIA AND IS PRESENTLY IN "SOME MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY" TALKING TO ELF REPS.

COMMENT:WHILE ASSERTION THAT ALL AFARS RALLIED TO SULTAN IS NO DOUBT SELF-SERVING EXAGGERATION, AFCC HAS EVERY INTEREST IN AVOIDING UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION ON COUNTRY'S PERIPHERY, AND ITS APPARENT PULL-BACK SUGGESTS WISER COUNSEL HAS AGAIN PREVAILED.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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